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APPLICATION

FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **ROBERT BOWMAN**, a citizen of
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a new and useful
FISHING POLE HOLDER MOUNTING SYSTEM of which the
following is a specification:

FISHING POLE HOLDER MOUNTING SYSTEM

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to fishing rod holders and more particularly pertains to a new fishing pole holder mounting system for permitting fishing pole holders to be mounted to a rear of a boat.

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Description of the Prior Art

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The use of fishing rod holders is known in the prior art. U.S. Patent No. 4,157,803 describes a device for extending from one gunwale to the other gunwale and has a plurality of fishing rod holder for receiving fishing rods. Another type of fishing rod holder is U.S. Patent No. 5,564,670 having a device that mounts to the top of a cleat and selectively receives items, such as a fishing pole. U.S. Patent No. 5,519,959 has a mounting base that removably engages a cleat and receives a fishing pole.

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While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the need remains for a system that has certain improved features that do not require permanent mounting to the boat.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention meets the needs presented above by mounting portions and mounting members that are clamped around
5 the cleats of the boat to secure the support member to the boat.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new fishing pole holder mounting system that permits usage of the cleats when the support member engages the cleats.

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Even still another object of the present invention is to provide a new fishing pole holder mounting system that allows mounting of the support member to either vertically mounted cleats or horizontally mounted cleats.

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To this end, the present invention generally comprises a support member comprising a medial portion and a plurality of mounting portions. The medial portion is positioned between the mounting portions. The mounting portions of the support member
20 are designed for being selectively coupled to the boat whereby the medial portion of the support member extends along the rear of the boat. The medial portion is designed for being selectively engaged by the fishing rod holders whereby the medial portion supports
25 fishing rods placed in the fishing rod holders and allowing the fishing rods to extend outwardly from the rear of the boat. The medial portion is coupled to the mounting portions at an angle to allow the medial portion to be positioned above the rear of the boat.

30 There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in

order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

5 The objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

10 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

 The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is
15 given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

 Figure 1 is a perspective view of a new fishing pole holder mounting system according to the present invention.

20 Figure 2 is a top view of the present invention.

 Figure 3 is a top view of one of the mounting portions and one of the mounting members of the present invention mounted to a
25 horizontal cleat.

 Figure 4 is a side view of one of the mounting portions and one of the mounting members of the present invention mounted to a vertical cleat.

30 Figure 5 is a cross-sectional view of the present invention taken along 5-5 of Figure 2.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 5 thereof, a new fishing pole holder mounting system embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 5, the fishing pole holder mounting system 10 generally comprises a support member 11 comprising a medial portion 12 and a plurality of mounting portions 13. The medial portion 12 is positioned between the mounting portions 13. The mounting portions 13 of the support member 11 are designed for being selectively coupled to the boat whereby the medial portion 12 of the support member 11 extends along the rear of the boat. The medial portion 12 is designed for being selectively engaged by the fishing rod holders whereby the medial portion 12 supports fishing rods placed in the fishing rod holders and allowing the fishing rods to extend outwardly from the rear of the boat. The medial portion 12 is coupled to the mounting portions 13 at an angle to allow the medial portion 12 to be positioned above the rear of the boat. The support member 11 is substantially U-shaped. The support member 11 is designed for substantially matching a perimeter of the rear of the hull of the boat.

Each of a pair of mounting members 14 is selectively coupled to one of the mounting portions 13 of the support member 11. The mounting members 14 are designed for being positioned adjacent one of the cleats of the boat whereby one of the mounting portions 13 is positioned opposite the associated one of the mounting

members 14. Each of the mounting members 14 and the associated one of the mounting portions 13 is designed for clamping around the associated one of the cleats to mount the support member 11 to the boat when the mounting members 14 are coupled to the
5 mounting portions 13 of the support member 11.

Each of the mounting members 14 comprises a plurality of horizontal bores 15 whereby the horizontal bores 15 extend through the associated one of the mounting members 14. Each of the
10 mounting portions 13 of the support member 11 comprises a plurality of horizontal apertures 16 whereby the horizontal apertures 16 extend through the associated one of the mounting portions 13. The horizontal bores 15 of each of the mounting members 14 is aligned with the horizontal apertures 16 of the
15 associated one of the mounting portion when the mounting members 14 and the mounting portions 13 are clamping the horizontally mounted cleats of the boat. Each of a plurality of fasteners 17 is selectively extended through one of the horizontal bores 15 and an aligned one of the horizontal apertures 16 whereby the fasteners 17
20 secure the mounting members 14 to the mounting portions 13 to clamp the cleats between the mounting members 14 and the mounting portions 13 of the support member 11.

Each of the mounting members 14 comprises a plurality of
25 vertical bores 18 whereby the vertical bores 18 extend through the associated one of the mounting members 14. Each of the mounting portions 13 of the support member 11 comprises a plurality of vertical apertures 19 whereby the vertical apertures 19 extend through the associated one of the mounting portions 13. The
30 vertical bores 18 of each of the mounting members 14 is aligned

with the vertical apertures 19 of the associated one of the mounting portion when the mounting members 14 and the mounting portions 13 are clamping the vertically mounted cleats of the boat. Each of the fasteners 17 is selectively extended through one of the vertical bores 18 and an aligned one of the vertical apertures 19 whereby the fasteners 17 secure the mounting members 14 to the mounting portions 13 to clamp the cleats between the mounting members 14 and the mounting portions 13 of the support member 11.

A brace member 20 is selectively coupled to the medial portion 12 of the support member 11. The brace member 20 is designed for extending between the support member 11 and a hull of the boat whereby the brace member 20 is for inhibiting the support member 11 bending downward and striking the boat.

The brace member 20 comprises a support aperture 21. The support aperture 21 extends through the brace member 20. The support aperture 21 is for receiving the support member 11 whereby the support member 11 extends through the brace member 20.

The brace member 20 comprises a set aperture 22. The set aperture 22 extends through the brace member 20 into the support aperture 21 of the brace member 20. The set aperture 22 of the brace member 20 threadably receives a set fastener 23 whereby the set fastener 23 selectively extends through the brace member 20 and into the support aperture 21. The set fastener 23 is for abutting against the support member 11 extending through the support aperture 21 of the brace member 20 to secure the support member 11 to the brace member 20 and inhibit sliding of the brace member 20 with respect to the support member 11.

In use, the user places the support member 11 through the support aperture 21 of the brace member 20 and the set fastener 23 is used to secure the brace member 20 to the support member 11.

5 The mounting portions 13 of the support member 11 are placed adjacent to the cleats at the rear of the boat. Each of the mounting members 14 are then placed on the opposite sides of the cleats from the associated one of the mounting portions 13. The fasteners 17 are then extended through the mounting members 14 and the
10 mounting portions 13 to clamp the cleats between the mounting members 14 and the mounting members 14. The user can the clamp a plurality of rod holders to the support member 11s and place a fishing rod in each of the rod holders while the user is fishing off the rear of the boat.

15 With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed
20 readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

25 Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable
30 modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.